

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-13 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 AID-20 RSR-01 SSO-00 /139 W
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R 090815 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8419

USDEL FRANCE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 03847

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SPOT REPORT MR 1: FAILURE OF ICCS
RECONNAISSANCE VISIT TO GIO LIN, QUANG TRI ON MARCH 7

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL DANANG ON MARCH 8 ACTION
AMEMBASSY SAIGON REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 197

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SPOT REPORT MR I: FAILURE OF ICCS
RECONNAISSANCE VISIT TO GIO LIN, QUANG TRI ON MARCH 7

1. AS REPORTED IN DANANG SITREP X PLUS 39, THE REGION I ICCS, AT
THE LAST MOMENT, CALLED OFF ITS SCHEDULED MARCH 7 RECONNAISSANCE
VISIT TO THE GIO LINH ACCESS POINT SITE. THE FOLLOWING DETAILS
WERE PROVIDED BY POLOFF HUE.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOUR ICCS POWERS PLUS AN ARVN AND US
REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE JMC ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO MAKE THE VISIT,
WHICH WAS AUTHORIZED AT THE SAIGON LEVEL, OVERLAND VIA QL-1.

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AFTER THE ICCS DECIDED THAT HELICOPTERS WOULD BE USED, THE PRG/ NVA STIPULATED THAT INSTEAD OF A DIRECT ROUTE FROM QUANG TRI CITY TO GIO LINH, THE FLIGHT PLAN MUST FOLLOW THE COAST TO THE MOUTH OF THE CUA VIET RIVER WHERE THE GROUP WOULD DISEMBARK AND PROCEED OVERLAND TO GIO LINH. THE RVN OBJECTED ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PRG/ NVA WERE PERVERTING THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP AND TRYING TO SHOW THE ICCS AREAS CONTROLLED BY THE PRG/ NVA. THE ICCS CALLED OFF THE VISIT BUT PLAN TO TRY AGAIN MARCH 8 IF A FLIGHT PLAN CAN BE AGREED UPON AND THE SCHEDULED RELEASE AT QUANG TRI OF 500 MORE NVA PRISONERS DOES NOT CONFLICT.

3. DURING A CALL BY THE HUE AREA TEAM DIRECTOR AND THE POLOFF ON THE HUNGARIANS WHO ARE NOW CHAIRING THE REGION I ICCS, THE INTERPRETER, LT BERENTES, VOLUNTEERED THAT THE REASON THE RECONNAISSANCE VISIT TO GIO LINH WAS ABORTED WAS A " LACK OF COMMUNICATION" BETWEEN THE RVN AND THE PRG AND A FAILURE TO COORDINATE ALL ASPECTS OF THE VISIT. HOWEVER, COLONEL MCLEOD, THE CANADIAN OIC, IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, MORE DIRECTLY ACCUSED THE PRG OF NOT SERIOUSLY WORKING TO MAKE THE RECONNAISSANCE SUCCESSFUL. BROWN
WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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